

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 09934 281541Z

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 /095 W

-----067900 290633Z /21

R 281027Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2451

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 9934

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, AF, IN

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 9680

1. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF JUNE 27 DEMARCHE ON SSOD TO ASK FOREIGN SECRETARY JAGAT MEHTA ABOUT HIS JUNE 22-23 VISIT TO KABUL. MEHTA SAID HE HAD BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED DURING HIS 36-HOUR STAY IN KABUL, DURING WHICH TIME HE HAD EIGHT OR NINE HOURS OF CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER TARAKI AND FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN, AND LESSER LIGHTS IN FOREIGN OFFICE. MEHTA THOUGHT IT SIGNIFICANT THAT HE HAD BEEN THE FIRST "GENERALIST" OFFICIAL, AS DISTINCT FROM TECHNICAL SPECIALIST, FROM A NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRY TO VISIT AFGHANISTAN. I TOOK THIS DISTINCTION AS AN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 09934 281541Z

INDIRECT REFERENCE TO DR. PETERSON OF THE FRG.

2. IN HIS TALKS WITH THE AFGHANS, MEHTA SAID HE HAD STRESSED THE LONG-EXISTING, FRIENDLY AND "NON-IDEOLOGICALLY BASED" RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN WHICH HAD EASILY ABSORBED CHANGES IN BOTH COUNTRIES, THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA AND THE COUP IN AFGHANISTAN. FOREIGN SECRETARY

SAID HE HAD TOLD THE AFGHANS THAT INDIA WOULD BE WILING TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BUT NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT OFFERED ANY NEW ASSISTANCE.

3. FOR THEIR PART, THE AFGHANS HAD EMPHASIZED TO MEHTA THAT THE REVOLUTION WAS OF THEIR OWN MAKING, THAT THEY WERE NOT BEHOLDEN TO ANY FOREIGN POWER, THAT THEY WOULD DEFINE THEIR POSITION TOWARD FOREIGN COUNTRIES ACCORDING TO WHETHER OR NOT THESE COUNTRIES ACCEPTED THE REVOLUTION.

MEHTA OPINED THAT THE AFGHAN LEADERS WERE SINCERE IN THEIR NATIONALIST PROTESTATIONS, ADDING THAT HE DOUBTED WHETHER ANY AFGHAN REGIME COULD IMPOSE COMMUNISM ON THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. HE SAID AMIN HAD INFORMED HIM OF HIS CONVERSATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH MR. SAUNDERS AND MENTIONED THAT THE AFGHANS HAD SAID THEY HOPED THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE, AND EVEN INCREASE, ITS AID TO AFGHANISTAN.

4. ON THE SUBJECT OF PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS, SAID MEHTA, THE AFGHANS CLAIMED IT WAS A FACT OF LIFE THAT THE PUSHTUNISTAN AND BALUCHISTAN ISSUES EXISTED BUT THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO PURSUE THEIR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO MEHTA, THE AFGHANS DID NOT SUGGEST HOW THEY INTENDED TO MOVE ON THESE TWO ISSUES.

5. MEHTA ALLOWED AS HOW THE AFGHAN COUP HAD SERVED TO EXACERBATE PAK-INDIAN RELATIONS AND PUT A TEMPORARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 09934 281541Z

STOP TO THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION. IN THIS CONNECTION HE SAID RECENT STATEMENTS BY ZIA HAD GIVEN INDIA SOME CONCERN. (PRESUMABLY HE WAS REFERRING TO ZIA'S REMAKRS ON KASHMIR IN HIS JUNE 25 ADDRESS TO THE NATION) MEHTA ALSO, WITH SOME BITTERNESS, REFERRED TO PAKISTAN'S PRACTICE OF TALKING OF A MOSCOW-KABUL-DELHI AXIS. MEHTA THEN WENT ON TO EXPOUND THE FAMILIAR INDIAN POSITION THAT THE PAKS, BY OVERREACTING TO THE AFGHAN COUP, RAN THE DANGER OF CREATING A HOSTILE AFGHAN STANCE TOWARD PAKISTAN.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MEHTA'S QUESTIONING ABOUT OUR OWN ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. I MENTIONED THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SOVIET ADVISERS SINCE THE COUP AND THE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE SUPPLANTING THE U.S. IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD AND THE WEST GERMANS IN THE AREA OF POLICE TRAINING. IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSING PARCHAM-KHALQ RELATIONS, MEHTA SAID BABRAK HAD NOT BEEN SEEN FOR SOME DAYS IN KABUL.

7. MEHTA ALSO SAID THAT HIS TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 28, HAD BEEN INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.

8. COMMENT: THE AFGHAN COUP HAS PRESENTED THE JANATA GOVERNMENT WITH ITS FIRST SIGNIFICANT AND UNANTICIPATED CLOSE-TO-HOME PROBLEM IN A FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA WHICH HAS HITHERTO BEEN RELATIVELY EASY TO MANAGE AND, INDEED, QUITE WELL MANAGED. MEHTA'S VISIT TO KABUL APPEARS A FURTHER EFFORT ON INDIA'S PART, IN THE WAKE OF DISCUSSIONS IN MOWCOW, TEHRAN, LONDON AND WASHINGTON, TO ADVANCE GOI VIEW THAT EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN NEED NOT OF THEMSELVES UNDERCUT REGIONAL STABILITY AND HINDER INDIA'S POLICY OF FOSTERING EFFECTIVE BILATERAL COOPERATION AND OFFSET OUTSIDE INFLUENCE IN THE AREA. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE INDIANS TO DEMONSTRATE A MORE ACTIVE INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN AND STRESS REGIONAL AND NON-ALIGNED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NEW DE 09934 281541Z

AFFINITIES IS FACILITATED BY THE FACT THAT INDIA HAS TRADITIONALLY ENJOYED THE LEAST FRICTIONAL RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN OF ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS AND HAS ITS OWN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE DRA'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORTER, THE SOVIET UNION. NEVERTHELESS, A MORE ACTIVE INDIAN INTEREST IN AFGHANISTAN, NO MATTER HOW WELL-INTENTIONED, WILL GIVE RISE TO FURTHER PAK SUSPICIONS AND IRRITATE PAK-INDIAN RELATIONS. WE THINK THAT THE INDIANS ARE WELL AWARE OF THIS RISK BUT HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THEIR REGIONAL OBJECTIVES AS OUTLINED ABOVE WARRANT THE RISK AND THAT IN ANY CASE PAKISTAN'S MISTRUST OF INDIA IN THE CURRENT SITUATION WOULD CONTINUE.

BLOOD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jun 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE09934
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780268-0833
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780612/aaaaajxn.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 22394f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 9680
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2179768
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFGHANISTAN
TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, AF, IN, (MEHTA, JAGAT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22394f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014